

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0453

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 9320

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV ET

SUBJECT: DRAFT CONSTITUTION PRESENTED

REFS: (A) ADDIS 2863 PARA 1 AND 3168 PARA 3;

(B) ADDIS 4304, 4424 AND MEMCON DATED 5/1/74

1. RADIO AND PRESS, AUGUST 6 AND 7, REPORT THAT CHAIRMAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE (CC) PRESENTED PRIMIN COPY OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION. DOCUMENT IS FRUIT FOUR MONTHS DELIBERATION BY CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION (REF A).

2. IN PRESENTATION CEREMONY, CHAIRMAN ASSERTED THAT OBJECTIVES OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION CONSONANT WITH THOSE OF EMPEROR'S MARCH 5 DIRECTIVE CONVENING CC. THEY WERE (A) DEFINITION/CLARIFICATION INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP OF IEG BRANCHES; (B) MAKING PM RESPONSIBLE TO PARLIAMENT; (C) GUARANTEEING CIVIL LIBERTIES; (D) REORGANIZING/STREAMLINING ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE TO PROVIDE FOR TIMELY DUE PROCESS; AND (E) SAFEGUARDING NATIONAL RESOURCES AND WEALTH.

3. CHAIRMAN STATED CC HAD CONSIDERED SUGGESTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES VARIOUS ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITIES (E.G., REF B). HE HOPED PRODUCE WOULD PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO "PM AND AFCC AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE."

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4. PRIMIN, ACCEPTING DOCUMENT, HOPED IT WOULD EMBODY CHERISHED

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS HANDED DOWN THROUGH THE AGES. HE SAID CABINET WOULD STUDY DRAFT, WHICH WOULD THEN BE PRESENTED TO EMPEROR AND GO THENCE TO PARLIAMENT. COPY OF DOCUMENT THEN ALSO HANDED TO AFCC REP PRESENT.

5. IN ETHIOPIAN RADIO PRESENTATION, DRAFT CONSTITUTION CHARACTERIZED AS FOLLOWS: (A) IT TRANSFORMS NATION INTO CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY; (B) FURTHERS REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH TO TRANSFORM FEUDAL POLITY INTO AN ACHIEVEMENT-ORIENTED SOCIETY; (C) PROTECTS BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH ANCHORED IN LAW; (D) PUTS EXECUTIVE UNDER PARLIAMENTARY "CONTROL"; (E) PROVIDES FOR ELECTION OF PM FROM PARLIAMENT, HIS APPROVAL BY EMPEROR AND HIS (PM'S) RIGHT TO SELECT HIS CABINET; (F) GUARANTEES INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY; (G) FOSTERS LOCAL (DECENTRALIZED?) ADMINISTRATION; AND (H) PROVIDES FOR PEOPLE'S PROTECTION AGAINST MALADMINISTRATION (OMBUDSMAN?).

6. COMMENT: DRAFT CONSTITUTION EXPECTED BECOME AVAILABLE IN ROUGH TRANSLATION SHORTLY, AT WHICH TIME WE WILL COMMENT FURTHER.
WYMAN

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